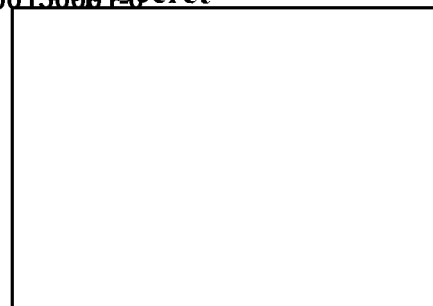




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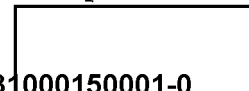


National Intelligence Daily

Wednesday
24 January 1979

State Dept. review completed

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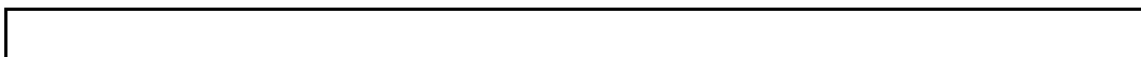
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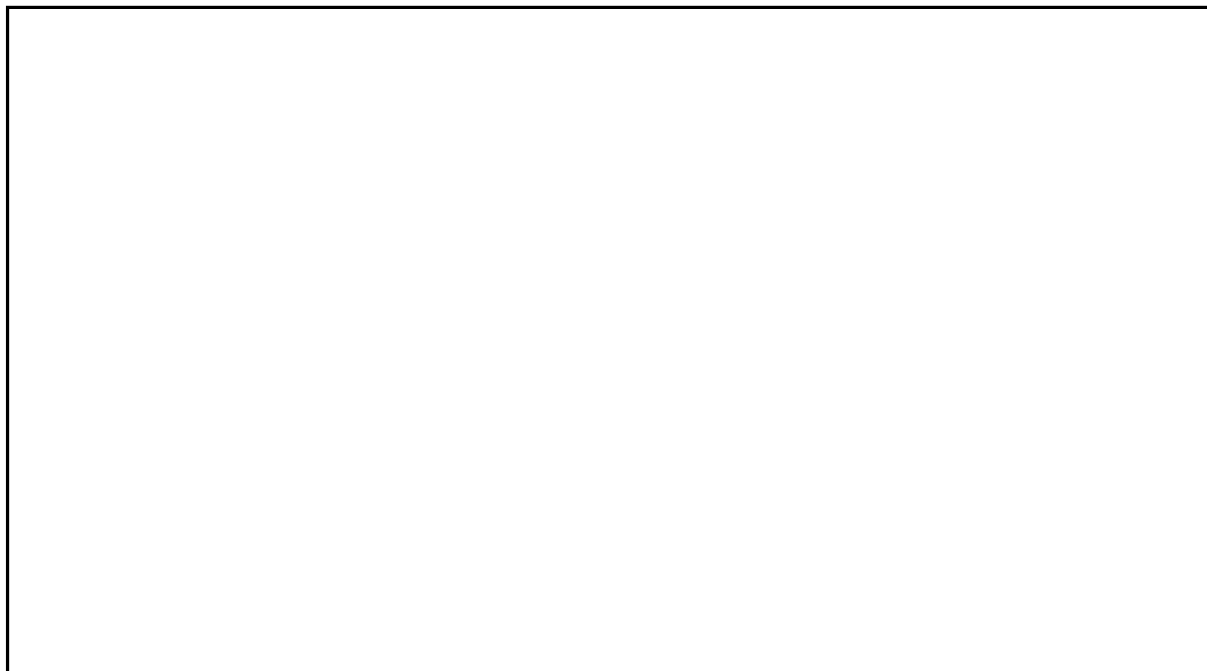
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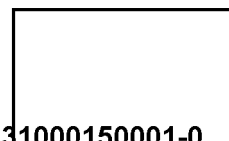
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SITUATION REPORTS

IRAN

Military and police forces closed Tehran's international airport late last night Washington time, and police officials indicated that the airport would remain shut until Sunday. There was no immediate official confirmation that the closing was intended to prevent the planned return of Ayatollah Khomeini on Friday. The move is likely to widen further the differences between Prime Minister Bakhtiar's government and the military on the one hand and the opposition on the other.

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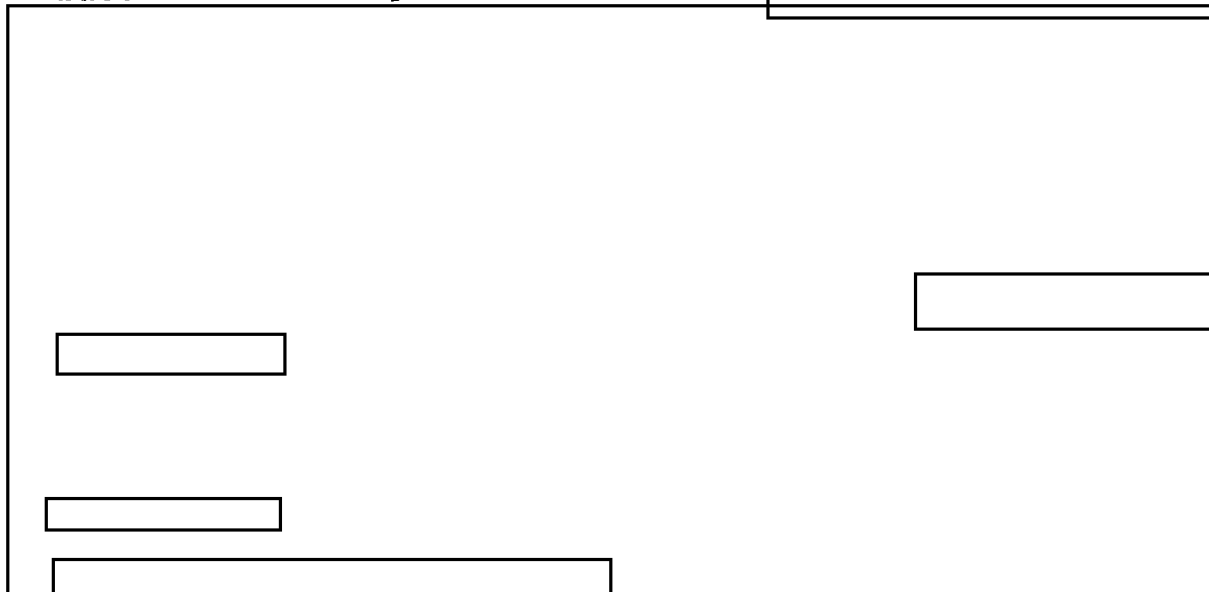
No other military actions were reported in the Tehran area, and it is not certain whether the security forces moved under instructions from Prime Minister Bakhtiar. The Tehran domestic radio service stopped broadcasting early this morning.

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Bakhtiar was planning steps to seize the initiative from the opposition before Khomeini's intended return. Progovernment demonstrations were being organized in Tehran and other cities; they could lead to more street battles with antigovernment forces.

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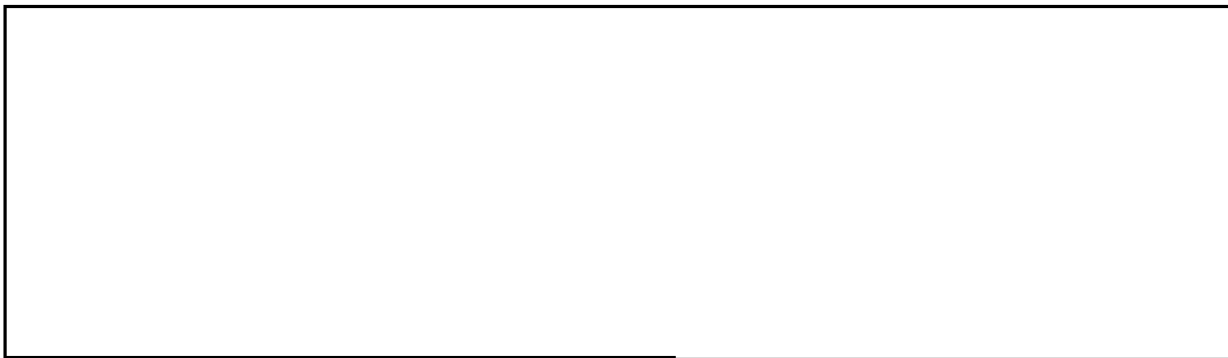
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The Shah's Activities



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[redacted] He probably hopes that if Prime Minister Bakhtiar's government is unable to deal with Khomeini, the military will invite the Shah to return to restore order. If the Shah encourages the military to seize power on his behalf, the chances that hard-line officers will mount a coup would be significantly increased. [redacted]

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Many Iranians would blame the US for any move by the Shah to return or for a military takeover on his behalf. [redacted]

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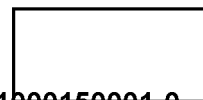


During the Shah's recent stay in Aswan, leftists distributed leaflets denouncing him as a tool of the CIA. Last month, a series of minor demonstrations reportedly were mounted by followers of the conservative Muslim Brotherhood protesting public expressions of support for the Shah by a leading government-appointed religious leader. [redacted]

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The US could also be the target of criticism generated by the Shah's presence. Ambassador Eilts reports that, as the situation in Iran has deteriorated, there has been a marked increase in suspicion and animosity toward the US on the part of orthodox Egyptian Muslims who apparently believe the US is hostile toward Islam. [redacted]

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ISRAEL-LEBANON: Cease-Fire Agreement

Ambassador Lewis last night reported from Tel Aviv that Israel and the PLO have agreed to halt the five-day old artillery and rocket exchanges along the Israeli-Lebanese border. If a cease-fire is maintained, it could bring at least a temporary end to the worst period of shelling, terrorist incidents, and other military actions in the troubled region since the Israeli incursion into southern Lebanon last spring.

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Lebanese Prime Minister Huss told Ambassador Dean in Beirut late last night that PLO leader Arafat had ordered Palestinian forces to stop firing. Huss asked that the US pass word of the cease-fire order to the Israelis. Israeli Defense Minister Weizman, who agreed to arrange the cease-fire to become effective as of 2300 EST last night, said he noted that the situation along the border had been quiet since late yesterday afternoon.

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A cease-fire may require some time to take hold. Arafat apparently told Huss that, while he had issued the command, word had not yet filtered down to all Palestinian units. It is possible that some Palestinians will not comply.

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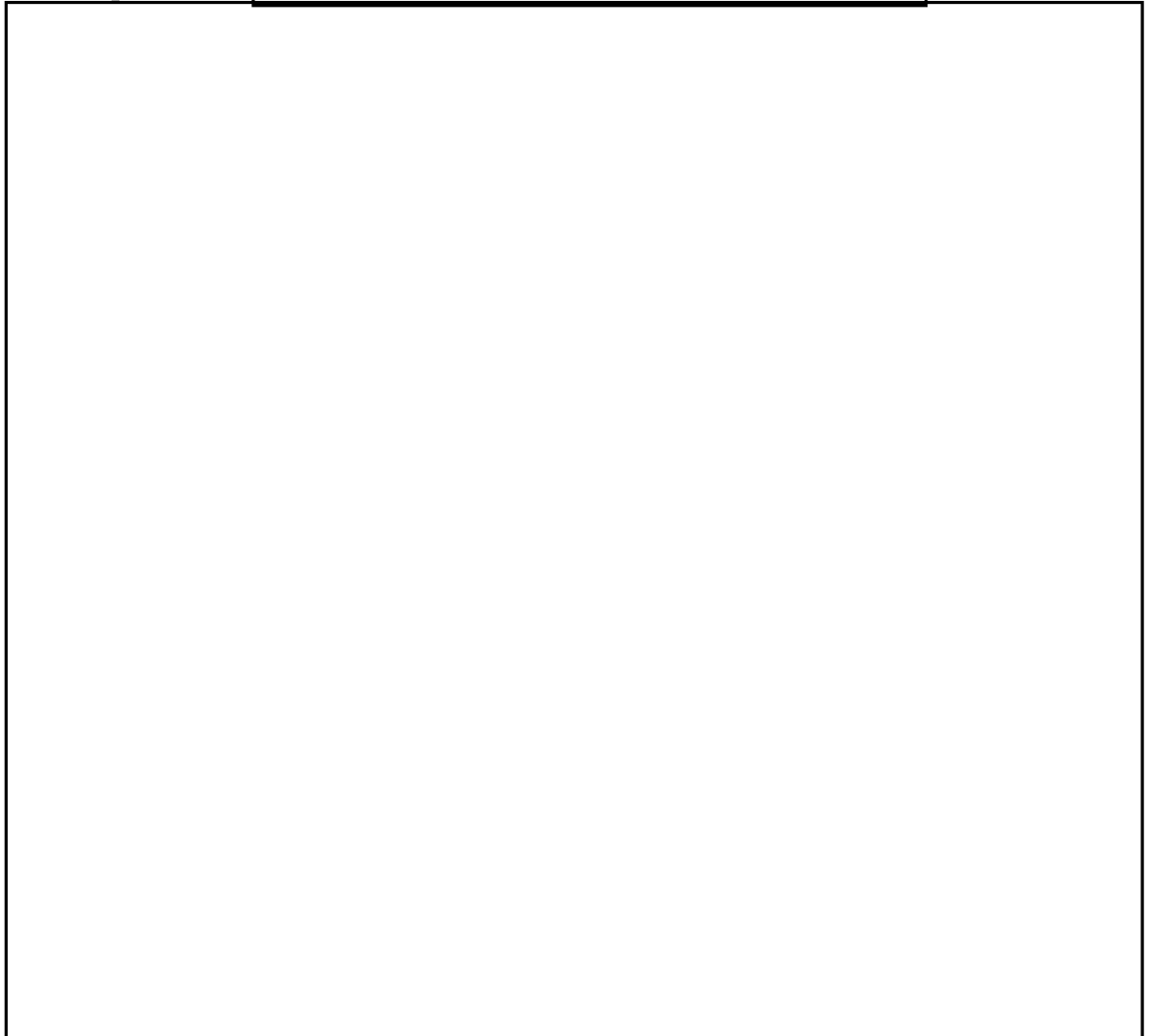
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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Iran

The Tehran domestic radio service resumed broadcasting its usual programs this morning (see Situation Report).





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China

Chinese dissidents report that authorities have ordered a crackdown--including imprisonment--on human rights groups and on unofficial contacts with foreigners.

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According to a press report, a diplomat in Beijing (Peking) has speculated that the drive may be aimed at embarrassing Vice Premier Deng just before he visits the US.

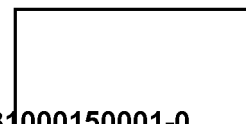
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USSR

Press sources--citing official Soviet accounts--report that the Soviet Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan are experiencing serious economic problems because of the interruption of natural gas deliveries from Iran. Local Soviet officials and newspapers have reported that industries and power and heating stations have switched from gas to heavy fuel oil in the cities of Baku and Yerevan. Other unconfirmed reports suggest a similar fuel emergency in Soviet Georgia. Until last October, the Soviets had been importing about 350 billion cubic feet of natural gas a year from Iran at a cost of \$1 million a day.

Poland-France

The US Embassy in Warsaw reports that Poland has requested a credit from France to purchase an additional 400,000 tons of wheat worth about \$50 million. According to a member of the French Embassy, France will grant the credit. The total amount of credits Poland will receive from France this year is expected to reach \$150 million.




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